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|  | <b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>       | Operations Order<br><b>8.3.00</b> |
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## 1. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. **Information Source:** A person who, without **coercion** and not at the direction of the Phoenix Police Department, willingly and independently provides information without any expectation of any type of **compensation** in return.
  - All information provided by an information source will be verified by officers.
- B. **Confidential Informant:** A person, who is under a contractual agreement with law enforcement or a prosecuting agency that provides information regarding criminal activity.
  - Often, this information is in exchange for compensation and the identity of the source is known only by the case agent(s).
- C. **Coercion:** Threats, pressure, intimidation, or any other activity which may influence a person's actions, create duress, or cause doubt as to the voluntary nature of the information derived.
- D. **Compensation:** Money or any other form of gratuity including the offer of any favorable circumstance such as but not limited to sentencing, booking recommendations, or the possibility of avoiding prosecution in exchange for information.
- E. **Contact Officer:** The officer to whom an information source originally spoke with to report information regarding possible criminal activity.

## 2. **INFORMATION SOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

- A. Many persons with whom officers come in contact are potential information sources and may provide information voluntarily with no expectation or demand of consideration in return.
  - (1) Such information sources may include but are not limited to:
    - Complainants on radio calls.
    - Neighborhood narcotic complaints/anonymous complainants.
    - Witnesses of crimes.
    - Victims of crimes.
    - Suspects of crimes.
    - Everyday field contacts with citizens in the community.
- B. Some sources will cooperate only if they are actively solicited and/or compensated.

## 3. **INITIAL MEETING WITH A POTENTIAL INFORMATION SOURCE**

- A. Officers who contact an individual believed willing to provide assistance to the Department as a compensated or non-compensated, agent of information, will notify their supervisor of the contact.
  - (1) Officers will provide the following information to their supervisor:
    - Identity of the individual, if known (include a criminal background check and biographical background where applicable).
    - How the individual may be contacted again.
    - Circumstances of the meeting.
    - Type of information or assistance the individual supplied or may be able to provide
    - Whether or not the individual is, or may be, willing to cooperate with any officer other than the initial officer.

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3. A. (1) (continued)
  - If any discussion took place regarding compensation and, if so, the content of this discussion.
  - If the subject worked as an information source for this agency or any other before.
  - What circumstances were involved.
  - Who the potential information source worked with and for how long.
  - Why the working relationship was terminated.
- (2) Supervisors will consider all information given and circumstances (time, calls holding, manpower, etc.) and decide if any follow up is immediately necessary.
- (3) If exigent or case sensitive circumstances exist, an appropriate bureau detective will be contacted through the VCB desk sergeant, radio, or available phone numbers.
- (4) In non-exigent circumstances, if a detective can not be contacted, officers will forward a 36 card to the appropriate bureau with all pertinent information.
- B. For further details on maintaining, tracking, and compensating **confidential informants** see the appropriate bureau manual.
- C. Patrol Officers will **not** offer any form of compensation for information from either informants or information sources.

#### 4. **RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION**

- A. Officers will show that the information obtained from an Information Source is reliable by conducting an independent investigation that corroborates as much of the information as possible.
  - (1). Information reliability may be corroborated by:
    - Surveillance
    - Records Checks
    - Observations by other law enforcement
    - Information independently obtained from other information sources
- B. All personnel are reminded a judicial official shall be informed of any past occasions when the Information Source's data proved to be inaccurate.

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| <b>Last Organizational Review:</b> |
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